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ment than that of supplying at a low cost to their immense constituency the popular masterpieces of English literature both of the past and of the present time.

The success of Messrs. Beadle & Co.'s undertaking has led other publishers in New York and Boston to engage in similar enterprises. As yet none of them, so far as we are aware, has reached any great magnitude. But we wish them all success, and regard the competition thus established as likely to be of service in raising the character of cheap literature generally.

10.—*My Cave Life in Vicksburg. With Letters of Trial and Travel.*

By a Lady. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1864. 12mo. pp. 196.

THIS is a curious and entertaining little book. It gives an interior view from the Southern side of one of the most interesting episodes of the war, and affords very striking pictures of the sufferings, exposures, and strange vicissitudes of fortune which many persons in the Confederate States have undergone during the progress of the rebellion. The actual scenes and occurrences of war, its distresses and its horrors, have been so far from our experience, our Northern communities have been so free from any of its immediate material evils, and the course of our lives has flowed with so little change in its wonted channels, that it has been, and will always be, difficult for us to realize the extent and nature of the retributive suffering that has fallen upon individuals and communities at the South.

"My Cave Life at Vicksburg" reads like the narrative of an experience almost as remote from us as that described in "A Lady's Diary of the Siege of Lucknow,"—a book which in some respects it resembles. But notwithstanding this seeming remoteness, it is impossible not to feel that it relates to what is really near to us, and to events which concern us very intimately.

The husband of the author was an officer in the Rebel army, and the sympathies of the author are plainly with the South; but there is nothing offensive to Northern feeling in the book, and the narrative is of a nature to awaken a friendly interest and compassion for its writer. There have, indeed, been few more interesting stories of the war.

Incidentally, and quite without the design of the author, the book affords striking glimpses of the semi-barbarism and the dulness of human feeling produced by slavery. To break up a system the effects of which are so inevitably degrading both to the whites and to the blacks, and to redeem them both alike to humanity and civilization, are worth all the cost, all the effort, and all the sacrifices of the war.